

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-4, 6 and 8-35. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-20 and 29-35 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 22 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 6 were objected to for informalities. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-28 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, for non-enablement and indefiniteness with respect to amended claim language that was introduced into independent claims 1, 12, 17, 20 and 31 in an amendment filed on February 14, 2006. As noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 6, 8-20 and 29-35. In the amendment of claim 21, as described below, the language that the Examiner found to be inconsistent with 35 U.S.C. 112 has been excised. Therefore, all the claims remaining in this application are now believed to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent 6,370,163). These claims have been canceled, as such this rejection is deemed moot.

The Examiner stated that dependent claims 21-28 would be allowable if rewritten to stand as independent claims, incorporating the limitations of independent claim 20, and to overcome the above-mentioned rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant has therefore rewritten claim 21 to stand as an independent claim, incorporating the limitations of claim 20. In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 21-28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such claim 21 has been rewritten to include the limitations of base claim 20 as it stood prior to the amendment

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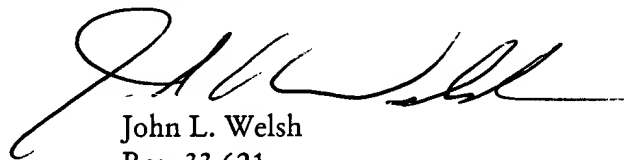
filed on February 14, 2006 and thus removing all 112 problems indicated in the current Office Action. Claims 22-28 depend from claim 21 and therefore are deemed to be allowable. Claim 22 has been amended to correct an informality. Thus, claims 21-28 are now believed to be patentable and raise any new issues requiring further consideration by the Examiner.

As this amendment will put the claims in condition for allowance without raising any new issues requiring further consideration by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment should be entered and the case passed to issue.

Applicant has studied the additional references made of record by the Examiner and believes the claims now pending in this application to be patentable over these references, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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